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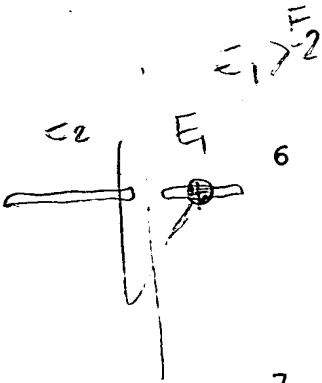
CLAIMS

- 1 A blade for a turbomachine comprising an aerofoil portion, a root portion and a platform located between the aerofoil and the root portions, the platform being divided and the root partially divided by at least one slot extending between opposing flanks of the blade, the slot extending from the aerofoil side of the platform and terminating within the root so that adjacent sections of the root support adjacent sections of the platform.
- 2 A blade as claimed in claim 1 wherein the root includes a blade fixing portion and a shank disposed between the blade fixing portion and the platform, and whereby the slot extends towards the blade fixing portion to provide a primary shank on one side thereof for supporting the aerofoil and an associated platform section, and a secondary shank on the opposing side thereof for independently supporting an adjacent platform section.
- 3 A blade as claimed in claim 2 wherein the platform edges ^{on} each side of the slot are adapted to be urged into mutual contact to provide engagement surfaces for damping blade vibrations.
- 4 A blade as claimed in claim 3 wherein adjacent shanks are adapted so that, in use, centrifugal load acting on the shanks urges the engagement surfaces of the platform sections into contact.
- 5 A blade as claimed in claim 4 wherein the secondary shank is inclined relative to the primary shank.

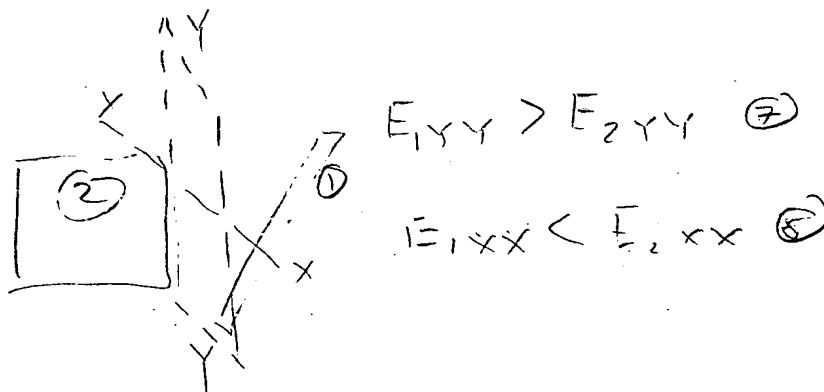
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- 6 A blade as claimed in claim 5 wherein the secondary shank extends between the blade fixing portion of the root and the centroid of the platform section it supports.
- 7 A blade as claimed in claim 3 wherein the secondary shank is adapted to have an elastic stiffness greater than the primary shank in the plane of the engagement surfaces.
- 8 A blade as claimed in claim 3 wherein the secondary shank is adapted to have an elastic stiffness less than the primary shank in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the engagement surfaces.
- any of
- 9 A blade according to claims 3 to 8 wherein shims are located along the engagement surfaces of each slot. ✓
- 10 A blade according to claim 1 wherein a first slot is provided at the blade leading edge, and a second slot is provided at the blade trailing edge.



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